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Banner News

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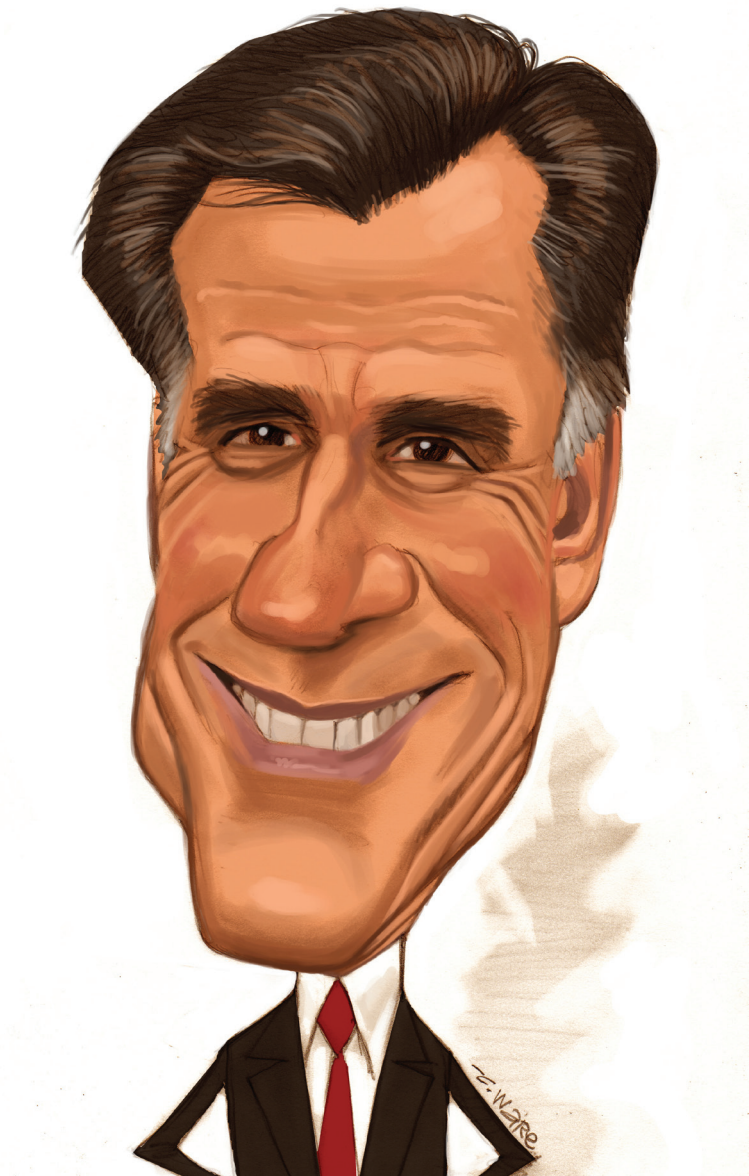
Authors

Taylor Baggett, Jonathan Rangel, Cainon Leeds, Logan Hassebrock, Jessica McNeece, and Sophia Andersen

Banner News

Your Life, Your Campus, Your News

‘Tis The Season: Election 2012



Willard Mitt Romney

Past government experience: 70th Governor of Massachusetts
Education: Stanford University, Brigham Young University, Harvard Law, and Harvard Business School
Birthplace/Birthday: Detroit, Michigan, March 12, 1947 (65)
Spouse: Ann Romney
Children: Taggart, Matthew, Joshua, Benjamin, and Craig
Economy: Gov. Romney's plan for the American economy includes lowering the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 25 percent, abolishing the Estate Tax and repealing the Alternative Minimum Tax, cutting federal spending to 20 percent of the gross domestic product, repealing Obamacare, privatizing Amtrak and decreasing EPA regulations and government programs. His plan also hopes to increase trade, boost energy production and flexibility of labor through a free market approach.
Healthcare: If elected president, Romney has promised to sign an executive order that would allow all 50 states to waive the Affordable Care Act healthcare requirement. Although he signed a bill similar to Obamacare into law in his own state of Massachusetts, he does not endorse a national law for healthcare, but would encourage states to create their own plans.

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VS.

Editor's Note

By Taylor Baggett
Election edition editor

As you may have already noticed, this issue is not your typical issue of the Banner News. It's election season and an important one at that. This year voters face some difficult decisions at the polls. The students in the News Media and Politics class designed and produced this special issue to give you, the voter, enough information to make an informed decision.

We hope you will use the information to really think about which candidate best fits you and your beliefs. And above all else, whether it's for Obama, Romney, or some other third party candidate, we hope you vote.



Barack Hussein Obama

Past government experience: 44th president, 2008-present; U.S. Senator, Ill., 2005-2008, Illinois State Senate, 1997-2004
Education: Occidental College, Columbia University, Harvard Law School
Birthdate/place: Honolulu, Hawaii. August 4, 1961 (51)
Spouse: Michelle Obama
Children: Sasha and Malia
Economy: President Obama's plan for the economy is to repeal the Bush tax cuts for households earning more than \$250,000 and lower taxes on the manufacturing industry. He supports stimulus spending and tax cuts to grow the economy (short term.) He wants to cut spending and raise taxes on wealthy to reduce the deficit (long term.) His main goal is to build the economy from the middle class out, not the top down. A government-led effort to rescue the auto industry in America was carried out under Obama's leadership.
Healthcare: In 2010, President Obama signed the healthcare overhaul bill (Obamacare). Basically, what that bill does is it calls for patient protections, like allowing coverage for pre-existing conditions, not letting insurers cancel policies when patients get sick and requiring individuals to buy health insurance or pay a fine. His main idea is to expand access and lower the cost for families.

SEE OBAMA, PAGE 3

Third party candidates appear on ballot

By Jonathan Rangel
Contributing Writer

Third party candidates are another option for voters in the presidential election. The following parties and nominees appear on the Iowa ballot.

The Libertarian Party (LIB) is the third largest party in the United States. The Libertarian Party emphasizes a weak federal government as well as our rights if America were to be less regulated. It supports strong civil liberties and less

regulation on the market and a non-interventional international approach. The presidential nominee is Gary Johnson; the vice presidential nominee is Jim Gray.

The Constitution Party (CON) is a conservative political party that forms its beliefs on the founding documents of America. It has a Christian undertone within the party, which influences many of its issues. The presidential nominee is congressman Virgil Goode; vice presidential nominee is Jim Clymer.

The Green Party (GRN) is a liberal political party that emphasizes environmentalism, sustainability and equality. The party strongly feels corporations should not have any influence on how the government should be run. Presidential nominee is Dr. Jill Stein and vice presidential candidate is Cheri Honkala.

The Socialist Workers Party (SWP) is a strong liberal political organization that strongly supports communism and Marxism. It supports social equality, especially immigrants

and redistribution practices. Presidential nominee is James Harris and vice presidential nominee is Maura DeLuca.

The Party for Socialism & Liberation is a Marxist-Leninist party based on teachings of Karl Marx & Vladimir Lenin. They support eliminating corporate influence from politics, a new socialist government, granting independence U.S. colonies and the end of capitalism. Their candidate for president, Peta Lindsay, is too young to be on the ballot in Iowa, so Gloria LaRiva

acts as a stand-in on the ballot. Their vice presidential candidate is Yari Osorio.

The final candidate on the Iowa ballot is a man from Ames named **Jerry Litzel** who is running with his brother **Jim Litzel**. Jerry got on the ballot by getting 1,500 signatures from 10 Iowa counties. His main issues include eliminating federal matching funds for presidential candidates, cutting pay, eliminating health care coverage for members of Congress and reducing funding for food stamps.

Banner News Election Issue

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The Wasted Vote?

**By Jonathan Rangel and
Cainon Leeds**

Staff Writers

James Harris. Virgil Goode. Gary Johnson. Jill Stein. Gloria Lariva. Jerry Litzel.

Could one of these people be the next president of the United States?

It's possible but not probable. These six individuals are listed as independent party candidates on the presidential ballot along side the more widely known Barack Obama and Mitt Romney. But is a vote for one of these individuals a wasted vote?

One side of the argument says voting for independents is a pointless practice; the other side insists it is what makes America a true democracy. While history shows independent parties rarely make it into office, some are growing in numbers that are making it hard for them to be ignored.

DMACC Boone political science and history instructor Bruce Kelly offered his own thoughts on whether a vote for a third party is a wasted vote.

"I would say it is absolutely not a wasted vote," Kelly said.

He stood by the stance that voters should vote on principle. While Kelly agreed that no third party political candidate has won the presidential election, he explained that third parties do have influence over the two major parties. According to Kelly, when third parties grow to the point that they steal a significant amount of votes from one of the major parties, one of the major parties will try to "absorb" the third party in order to gain more votes.

"They [third parties] work as a moderating influence on the two party system," Kelly said.

He offered the Populist Party (also known as the People's Party) as an example of a third party that influenced both the Republican and Democratic parties.

Formed in Omaha, Nebraska, in February of 1892, the Populist Party found support from farmers in the Midwest. The Populists adopted a platform that included such issues as direct election of senators, the income tax, and the secret ballot. All of these issues, some of which were considered radical at the time according to Kelly, were adopted into United States policy in the early 20th century.

Kelly explained how the Republicans may have attempted to absorb the Populist movement with their own Progressive movement during the early 20th century. However, the First World War saw the Republicans turn back to their conservative ways. The Democrats instead, under the leadership of Franklin D. Roosevelt, absorbed of some of the Populist movement's principles.

Bradley Dyke, a political science professor at the Ankeny campus, offered an opposing view to help further the debate.

"Because the two major parties dominate both campaign finance and state legislatures, it is very difficult for third parties to gain much traction."

Taking this view into account

it can be implied that voting for a third party would not accomplish much. But the problem also lies in gaining attention for alternative candidates.

"Commercial mass media aren't really interested in their views, except to the extent that they are considered to be extreme in contrast to the views of Democrats and Republicans," Dyke said. "And the two major parties don't want any more competition, so they will do what they can in state legislatures (and Congress) to make it difficult for third parties to get on ballots."

This only serves as a reminder of what an uphill battle independent parties face to make it on the ballot. Even if they do have the chance to run for office, they rarely have the funds to get their message heard by the American public.

If third parties had more people behind their messages, there would most likely be a rise in third parties.

Dyke explained, "In order for third parties to get traction in America, two things would have to happen: [First] citizens would have to cooperate and use citizen ballot initiatives (propositions) to get a third party placed on a ballot. Given the difficulty in amassing large-scale popular voter initiatives, this would be problematic."

But success in making it to the polls doesn't necessarily mean a third party will get elected. As Dyke added, "[The second thing that would need to happen is] Conditions would have to get so bad, and the two major parties would have to be so indifferent, that a third party movement would actually become widely appealing to voters."

This is where a vote for a third party might be used as a form of protest. With so much against third parties, many might feel it is a waste of a vote.

"[W]hen a third party candidate is actually listed on a ballot, those who cast their vote for this long shot do so more as a form of protest against the two main party candidates—rage against the machine, so to speak..." Dyke said.

Taking into account an instance where third parties actually made a difference, the 2000 Presidential elections are a reminder of how third parties can affect the election process.

Due to Ralph Nader receiving a substantial number of votes that took away from the Democratic Party, the Republican Party was able to get the majority of votes in turn taking all of the electoral votes. Nader was running under the Green Party, which is much closer on the political spectrum to the Democratic side.

Had Gore been able to get the votes that went to Nader, the Democratic Party most likely would have won the Presidency, allowing one of most "green" Presidents the country would have seen.

This election shows a third party vote benefits the conventional party with the more opposing ideas. It could be said that votes for Nader were "wasted"

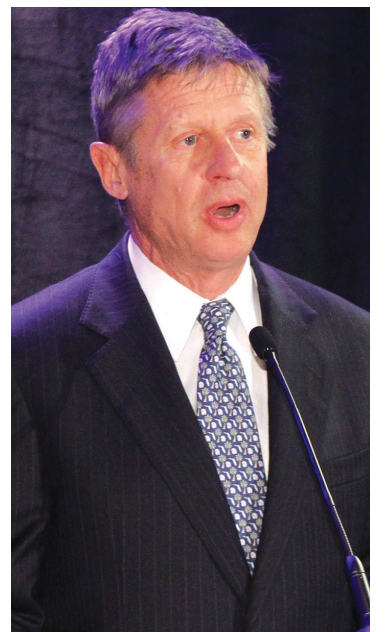


Photo by MCT

Libertarian Party Presidential candidate Gary Johnson speaks during the Libertarian Party debate in Orlando.



Photo by MCT

Green Party Presidential candidate Jill Stein is arrested for attempting to gain access to Hofstra University, the site of the second presidential debate between Obama and Romney.

because his votes helped get an opposing party elected.

Dyke also made a point of third parties acting as a sort of interest group on certain issues.

"It is also true that many functions of third (or additional) political parties are done by interest groups and PACs in the United States. It is easier and more cost-effective to get an alternative agenda publicized and supported using lobbying and donations to IGs."

Maybe instead of third parties concentrating so much time and effort trying to get elected, they might have more success trying to get their specific issues across the way interest groups do, through lobbying.

According to the official Libertarian Party website, there are currently about 250,000 registered Libertarians, making it the largest independent political party in the United States. In addition, there are candidates from the Libertarian Party running for office in all 50 states.

However, an organization like the National Rifle Association, which had about 4 million members in 2009, would carry about 16 times as much influence as the Libertarians in terms of membership.

Fact checks show truth is relative

By Jonathan Rangel

Staff Writer

Debates and Presidential ads alike are full of statistics and numbers designed to get our attention and sway us to vote for a candidate. But just how many of these statistics are true? Thanks to a website called factcheck.org, viewers can now figure out exactly what's true and what's false. Below we chose five such "facts" presented -- first from Mitt Romney then Barack Obama.

In the Presidential debates, Romney continually claimed Obama spent \$90 billion in one year investing in "green" energy. In actuality only \$21 billion went to alternative energy projects during that year period. Over four years, that investment total did close in on \$90 million.

Romney claimed that Obamacare would have a board that is going to tell people what kinds of treatment they can have. According to the law, this would

be illegal as the board only recommends cost saving measures for Medicare.

Romney claimed that Obama doubled the deficit. That is not true as the President inherited a \$1.2 trillion deficit when he took office and has remained around that level through his term. However, Romney does also point out that Obama promised to cut the deficit in half during his first four years.

Romney claimed that the number of Americans on food stamps has doubled since Obama took office. The number has gone up 46 percent, far from doubling.

Romney claimed that the median income for families have gone down \$5,000. It really has gone down \$3,290, which accounts for inflation.

Obama claimed to have created 5 million jobs in the last 30 months. There has actually only been 4.3 millions jobs created.

Fact checks, page 3



Illustration by Stacey Walker

Election 2012, continued from page 1

Romney

Education: Romney has a four-point plan for kindergarten through twelfth grade: provide alternatives to current schools, give parents clear information on the standing of public schools and alternatives, allow students to change schools, and supply student funding so that schools can afford new students.

With regards to higher education, he says that he will “strengthen and simplify” the financial aid system. He would also encourage the private sector to get involved in higher education. He discourages regulations and hopes to create “innovation and competition” in the higher education system.

Obama

Education: President Obama has approved waivers freeing states from the requirements of the Bush-era No Child Left Behind law. Obama’s new policy called the “Race To The Top” competition has rewarded winning states with billions of dollars for pursuing education policies. Obama has also won approval for college tax credit worth up to \$10,000 over four years and more money for Pell grants for low-income students. Obama also is pushing for Congress to agree to reduce federal aid to colleges that go too far in raising tuition. Obama plans to lead the world in the number of college graduates by 2020.

Fact checks, continued from page 2

Obama claimed that Romney was in favor of using the Arizona law of “papers, please” as a model for the country. He really said America should implement the part of the law from Arizona requiring employers to check the immigration status of employees.

Obama claims that Romney’s plan will have a \$5 trillion tax cut. While Romney’s planned “20% across the board” tax cut will cut approximately this amount, this number does not take into account the offset of tax rates or the

money that will be save closing loopholes and tax breaks.

Obama claimed that health-care premiums have gone up at a slower rate than any time in the last 50 years. That is the case for healthcare spending but not premiums.

These are just a few of the facts that each candidate has thrown out. And by no means is every fact stated by a campaign false.

To check out more facts, visit www.factcheck.org.

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NEWS ANALYSIS

The Governorship of Mitt Romney

By Cainon Leeds
Staff Writer

Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney calls upon his record as governor of Massachusetts as his main public sector experience. Romney served as Massachusetts’ governor for one term from 2003 to 2007, choosing not to run for reelection.

In one of Romney’s latest TV spots titled “Find a Way,” he contrasts his record as governor to President Obama’s tenure as president. The ad points to Romney’s accomplishments as governor saying, “He turned Massachusetts around, cut unemployment, turned the deficit he inherited into a rainy day fund, all with an 85% Democratic legislature.”

However, some other sources say that some of his assertions may not necessarily be true.

“Governor Romney left behind a budget deficit of \$1 billion using what incoming Governor Deval Patrick described as ‘all kinds of patches and plugs’ to hide the extent of the shortfall,” said the Associated Press back in 2007.

The Boston Globe said that by the end of Romney’s term as governor, 40,000 manufacturing

jobs had been lost in Massachusetts, a rate double that of the national average. So while some jobs may have been created, 40,000 of them weren’t in manufacturing.

When it comes to the health-care bill that he signed into Massachusetts law, Gov. Romney makes comments about how it worked for his state, but will not work for the nation as a whole.

Kevin Robillard of Politico writes, “The health care law Romney helped to craft and signed in 2006 is often described as a forerunner to Obama’s own health care overhaul, which passed Congress four years later without a single Republican vote.”

The article continues, “Romney has said his law worked for Massachusetts but wouldn’t necessarily work in other states. He has pledged to grant every state a waiver from Obama’s law on his first day in office and said he would work to repeal the legislation in its entirety.”

Overall, Romney’s record as governor was not a complete success nor an utter failure. His tenure was marked with prosperity and pitfalls. He showed leadership skills in working with a dominantly Democratic state legislature and has some experience in the public and private sectors.

The Presidency of Barack Obama

By Logan Hassebrook
Staff-writer

The following information is adapted from washingtonmonthly.com

Health Care Reform – After five presidents and over a century of trying to create universal health insurance President Obama finally got it through. He signed the Affordable Care Act, also known as ObamaCare. ObamaCare will cover 32 million uninsured Americans beginning in 2014 and it will also cut health care cost growth, which is the leading cause of America’s fiscal problems.

Stimulus – President Obama signed the \$787 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in 2009. The stimulus, in the greatest recession since the Great Depression, spurred economic growth and just weeks later unemployment claims began to subside. Because of the stimulus nearly 3.7 million new private-sector jobs were created.

Ending the War in Iraq – President Obama ordered all U.S. military forces out of the country. The last troops left on December 18, 2011.

Osama Bin Laden – In 2011, President Obama ordered

a special-forces raid at a secret compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan, in which the terrorist leader was taken out by Seal Team Six.

U.S. Auto Industry – In 2009 Chrysler and GM were hitting rock bottom and President Obama injected \$62 billion in federal money to rescue them. Since the injection the auto industry has added more than 100,000 jobs. The government expects to lose \$16 billion of its investment.

Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell – President Obama got rid of the discriminatory policy of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” in the military allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military.

Stem Cell Research – President Obama eliminated the Bush-era restrictions on embryonic stem cell research, which shows promise in treating spinal injuries, and understandin and treating human genetic disorders, among other things

Race To The Top – Using funds from the stimulus, President Obama started a \$4.35 billion program of competitive grants to encourage and reward states for education reform.

Boosted Fuel Efficiency Standards – President Obama released a new fuel efficiency standard that all car companies must follow.

Who are you voting for and why?

Tyler Schooly, 19



“Obama. I want to be able to afford college.”

Alyssa Cruse, 18



“Mitt Romney. I don’t believe what Obama believes.”

Chris Shannon, 27



“Mitt Romney. I think he could improve the economy, and he is a skilled businessman.”

Jaci Zimmerman, 24



“Obama because I’m a student, for women’s health and a strong economy.”

Damon Viner, 23



“Obama, I agree with his [stance on] social issues like women’s rights and LGBT rights.”

Calming nerves of 1st time voters

By Taylor Baggett
Election Edition Editor in Chief

Voting in an election can be confusing, frustrating, and a little overwhelming- especially for the millions of first-time voters in America. This guide to voting is designed to help out voters who have just reached the magic age of 18 and can finally vote.

The first step in voting is registering. By this time, if you have not registered to vote, you will have to register on site. To do this you need to bring with you a valid Iowa driver's license with your current address on it. If you don't have a driver's license, you may also prove your identity by bringing other photo ID cards such as an Iowa non-driver ID card, an out-of-state driver's license, a U.S. passport, U.S. military ID, or a student ID.

To prove your place of residence you must also bring one of the following: residential lease with your name on it, utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check or other government document.

If you cannot provide any of these, your final option is to have a friend or neighbor registered in your precinct attest that you are who you say you are.

Please note that if you do decide to use this final method, it is unwise to attest to be someone you are not or live somewhere you do not. If it is discovered that your friend or neighbor falsely attested, then both of you could face time in prison.

Registering to vote is the easy part. Now you have to take a look at the ballot. To the side of this article is the front and back of a sample ballot.

There are eight candidates for President on the Iowa ballot. Mitt Romney (REP), Barack Obama (DEM), Virgil Goode (CON), Jill Stein (GRN), Gary Johnson (LIB), James Harris (SWP), Gloria LaRiva (PSL), & Jerry Litzel (No Party).

To get a better idea of these candidates and what they are running on, please look at the third party article and the article on the two major candidates.

If you are voting absentee you need to send in a request for an absentee ballot immediately. Ballots must be received by the county auditor before the close of polls on election day.

If you are voting at your regularly scheduled polling place, please check to make sure you know where this is.

A good way to do this is to go to the Iowa Secretary of State's website and navigate to Elections < Voting < Voting on Election Day < Find your Precinct. Once there, type in the zipcode that you are registered to vote at. This will then give you the place that you need to go on election day to vote.

Now that you are ready to vote, it's time to take a look at the ballot. Voting is pretty simple, and if you've ever taken an ACT or other such test, you can figure it out in no time.

Each office to vote for will tell you exactly how many bubbles you can fill in. For all items on the front side of the ballot, you may vote for one person. This includes President, State Office, State Representatives, County Office, County Auditor, County Sheriff, and County Attorney.

Other offices, such as County Agricultural Extension Council and Soil & Water Conservation District commissioner, you are allowed to vote for more than one candidate

Another hot topic of this year's election is the retention vote involving Iowa Supreme Court Justice David Wiggins.

Wiggins, along with six other Iowa Supreme Court justices, voted yes on a controversial bill allowing gay marriage in Iowa. For more on this topic, visit page 8.

On the ballot, the retention vote is as easy as yes or no. Each justice facing the retention vote is listed along with a yes or no bubble. If you feel that the judge should not be retained, you fill in the “no” bubble. If you feel they should, fill in the “yes” bubble.

So while voting may seem a little over-whelming at first, it really is not. So this election season, we hope that each of you take 10 minutes of your day on Nov. 6 to get out to a polling place and vote.

by Taylor Baggett
Election Edition Editor in Chief

DMACC freshman Amanda Widener is part of an interesting statistic. Widener does not plan on voting in the upcoming election, and she is just one of an estimated 49% of college students who will not vote.

You don't have to look far to find other students whose plans for November 6th don't include casting a ballot. According to recent statistics found by the University of Bloomberg, only 1 in 15

students are even registered.

According to an article published by Bloomsburg University on September 1st, "Some students state that they are just unsure of how to go about voting, others say that they don't want to put in the time to register or wait in line on Election Day."

For Widener, it's a feeling that it doesn't affect her. "I'm 18. I don't pay taxes, I don't have a job, and my education is paid for.

STUDENTS, pg 7

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> Precinct Official's Initials </div> <div style="text-align: right;"> <i>Philippe E. Meier</i> County Auditor & Commissioner of Elections </div> </div>					
Official Ballot General Election - Boone County, Iowa Tuesday, November 6, 2012 Boone 2nd Ward					
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS To vote, darken the oval(s) completely next to your choice, like this: <input checked="" type="radio"/> Write-In: To vote for a write-in candidate, write the person's name on the line provided and darken the oval.					
<p>The Judicial Ballot is located on the back of this ballot.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Partisan Offices</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Straight Party Voting</p> <p>Straight party voting. To vote for all candidates from a single party, fill in the oval in front of the party name. Not all parties have nominated candidates for all offices. Marking a straight party vote does not include votes for nonpartisan offices, judges or questions.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Straight Party Voting Vote for no more than one.</p> <p> <input type="radio"/> Democratic Party (DEM) <input type="radio"/> Republican Party (REP) </p> <p style="text-align: center;">Other Political Organizations</p> <p>The following organizations have nominated candidates for only one office: Constitution Party (CON) Iowa Green Party (GRN) Libertarian Party (LIB) Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL) Socialist Workers Party (SWP) </p> <p>Other Abbreviations: Independent (IND) Nominated By Petition (NBP) </p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">Federal Offices</th> <th style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">State Offices</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <p>For President and Vice President Vote for no more than one team.</p> <p> <input type="radio"/> Barack Obama (DEM) Joe Biden </p> <p> <input type="radio"/> Mitt Romney (REP) Paul Ryan </p> <p> <input type="radio"/> Virgil Goode (CON) James Clymer </p> <p> <input type="radio"/> Jill Stein (GRN) Cheri Honkala </p> <p> <input type="radio"/> Gary Johnson (LIB) James P. Gray </p> <p> <input type="radio"/> Gloria LaRiva (PSL) Stefanie Beacham </p> <p> <input type="radio"/> James Harris (SWP) Alyson Kennedy </p> <p> <input type="radio"/> Jerry Litzel (NBP) Jim Litzel </p> <p> <input type="radio"/> _____ <small>(Write-in vote for President, if any)</small> </p> <p> <input type="radio"/> _____ <small>(Write-in vote for Vice President, if any)</small> </p> <p>For United States Representative District 4 Vote for no more than one.</p> <p> <input type="radio"/> Christie Vilsack (DEM) <input type="radio"/> Steve King (REP) <input type="radio"/> Martin James Monroe (NBP) <input type="radio"/> _____ <small>(Write-in vote, if any)</small> </p> </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <p>For State Senator District 24 Vote for no more than one.</p> <p> <input type="radio"/> Shelly Stotts (DEM) <input type="radio"/> Jerry Behn (REP) <input type="radio"/> _____ <small>(Write-in vote, if any)</small> </p> <p>For State Representative District 047 Vote for no more than one.</p> <p> <input type="radio"/> Donovan Olson (DEM) <input type="radio"/> Chip Baltimore (REP) <input type="radio"/> _____ <small>(Write-in vote, if any)</small> </p> <p style="text-align: center;">County Offices</p> <p>For Board of Supervisors Four Year Term Vote for no more than two.</p> <p> <input type="radio"/> Bill Lusher (DEM) <input type="radio"/> Thomas L. Foster (DEM) <input type="radio"/> Chet Hollingshead (REP) <input type="radio"/> _____ <small>(Write-in vote, if any)</small> </p> <p>For County Auditor Four Year Term Vote for no more than one.</p> <p> <input type="radio"/> Philippe E. Meier (DEM) <input type="radio"/> _____ <small>(Write-in vote, if any)</small> </p> <p>For County Sheriff Four Year Term Vote for no more than one.</p> <p> <input type="radio"/> Gregg K. Elsberry (DEM) <input type="radio"/> Rick D. Lampe (REP) <input type="radio"/> _____ <small>(Write-in vote, if any)</small> </p> <p>For County Attorney To Fill Vacancy Two Year Term Vote for no more than one.</p> <p> <input type="radio"/> Adria Kester (DEM) <input type="radio"/> _____ <small>(Write-in vote, if any)</small> </p> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Federal Offices	State Offices	<p>For President and Vice President Vote for no more than one team.</p> <p> <input type="radio"/> Barack Obama (DEM) Joe Biden </p> <p> <input type="radio"/> Mitt Romney (REP) Paul Ryan </p> <p> <input type="radio"/> Virgil Goode (CON) James Clymer </p> <p> <input type="radio"/> Jill Stein (GRN) Cheri Honkala </p> <p> <input type="radio"/> Gary Johnson (LIB) James P. 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FRONT Card 2 RptPct 20 "Boone 2nd Ward"

Non Partisan Offices	JUDICIAL BALLOT																				
<p>For County Public Hospital Trustee Six Year Term Vote for no more than three.</p> <p> <input type="radio"/> Bruce Anderson <input type="radio"/> Thomas Good <input type="radio"/> Maxine Redeker <input type="radio"/> _____ <small>(Write-in vote, if any)</small> <input type="radio"/> _____ <small>(Write-in vote, if any)</small> <input type="radio"/> _____ <small>(Write-in vote, if any)</small> </p> <p>For Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioner Four Year Term Vote for no more than three.</p> <p> <input type="radio"/> Kevin M. Griggs <input type="radio"/> Jeremy R. Gustafson <input type="radio"/> Rosalee Wurpts <input type="radio"/> _____ <small>(Write-in vote, if any)</small> <input type="radio"/> _____ <small>(Write-in vote, if any)</small> <input type="radio"/> _____ <small>(Write-in vote, if any)</small> </p> <p>For County Agricultural Extension Council Members Four Year Term Vote for no more than four.</p> <p> <input type="radio"/> Sean Blomgren <input type="radio"/> Kyle Chesnut <input type="radio"/> Todd D. Kilzer <input type="radio"/> Kimberly Rinker <input type="radio"/> _____ <small>(Write-in vote, if any)</small> <input type="radio"/> _____ <small>(Write-in vote, if any)</small> <input type="radio"/> _____ <small>(Write-in vote, if any)</small> <input type="radio"/> _____ <small>(Write-in vote, if any)</small> </p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Notice to voters: Vote on all names by filling in the appropriate oval below each name.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Shall the following Judges be retained in office?</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">Supreme Court</th> <th style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">District Court 2B</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <p>Bruce B. Zager</p> <p> <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No </p> </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <p>Steven J. 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Do poll results sway votes?

Jessica McNeece
Staff Writer

It seems like every website and news channel is saying something different about who is winning the election. Some sites are more conservative and others are more liberal so you can probably guess that their results are going to be different from each other.

According to Bruce Kelly, a history professor here at DMACC, the reason that news channels have different poll results is “There is a variation on random sampling. If you ask 5,000 people who they are voting for, they will come to one conclusion. But the next 5,000 people might have a different result.”

In other words, no two poll will have the same results.

So why do polls get conducted if they aren’t necessarily reliable? Kelly said “in order to measure public opinion.”

“News channels and websites are trying to get out the results to inform the public,” he said.

DMACC student Charlie Coghlin said he believes the purpose of polls is “to see people’s opinions.” They want to see whom people are voting for. Everyone wants to know who is going to win; therefore people try to determine the results before they are out.

As people look at the polls, you might wonder whether they are affected by the results.

“Polls affect people’s decisions because they can see the results beforehand,” said student Dalton Leuschke.

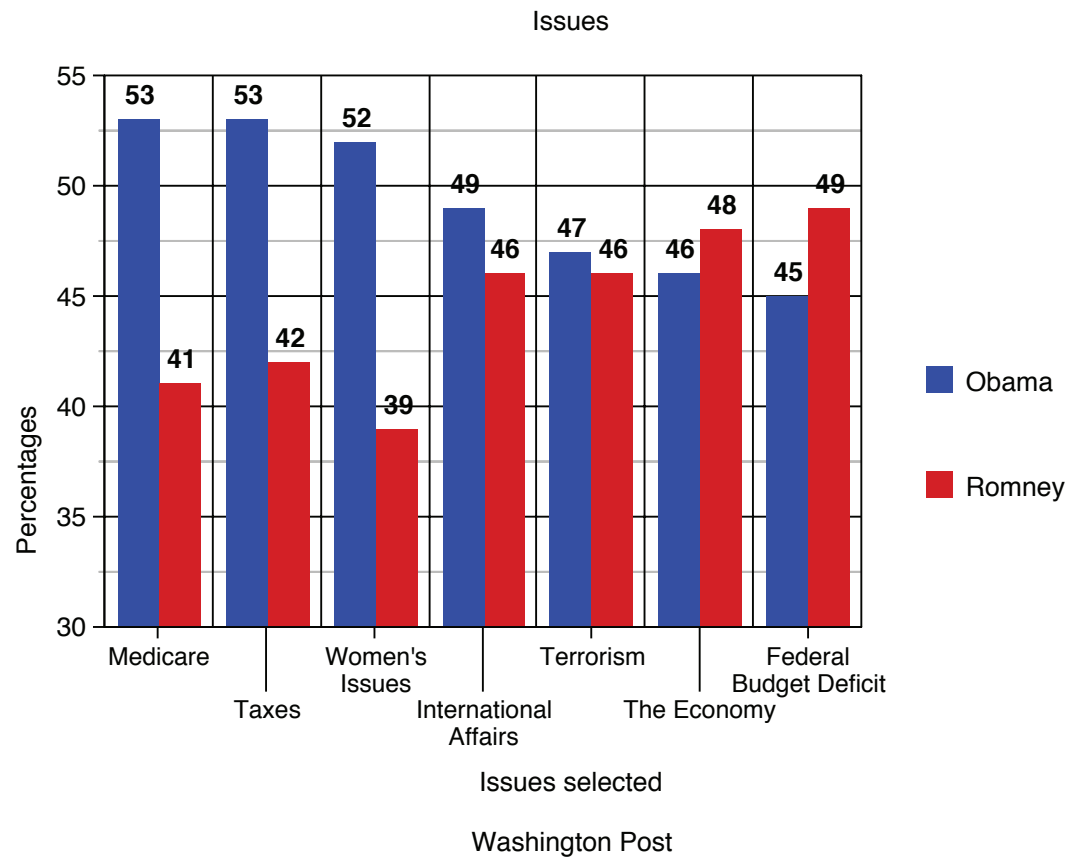
Another student, Charlie Coghlin, agreed. “Yes, I think they are affected.” When they are viewed on the news, tons of people view them and if they are not educated in the candidates it might make them vote for who is winning.

On the other hand it might make them vote for the underdog in the election too.

“People might be affected [by polls], it’s hard to tell though,” Kelly said.

Washington Post polls bring candidates and issues to light

Percentage of Support for the Position of the Candidate on These Issues



NOW YOU TELL US

Do you think polls affect the way people vote?

Sam Titus, 21



“I don’t think that people really pay attention to polls.”

Eric Sargent, 51



“I think they can depending on if it is a concern of the reader.”

Tyler Cox, 18



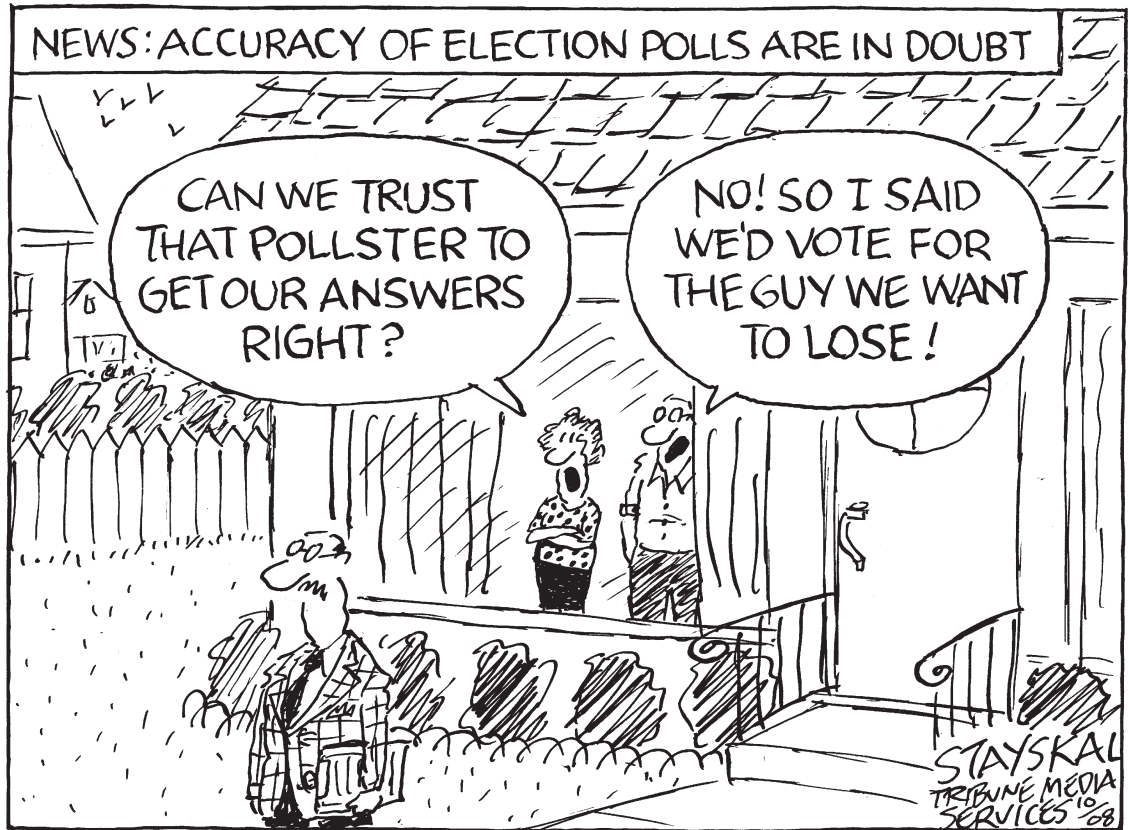
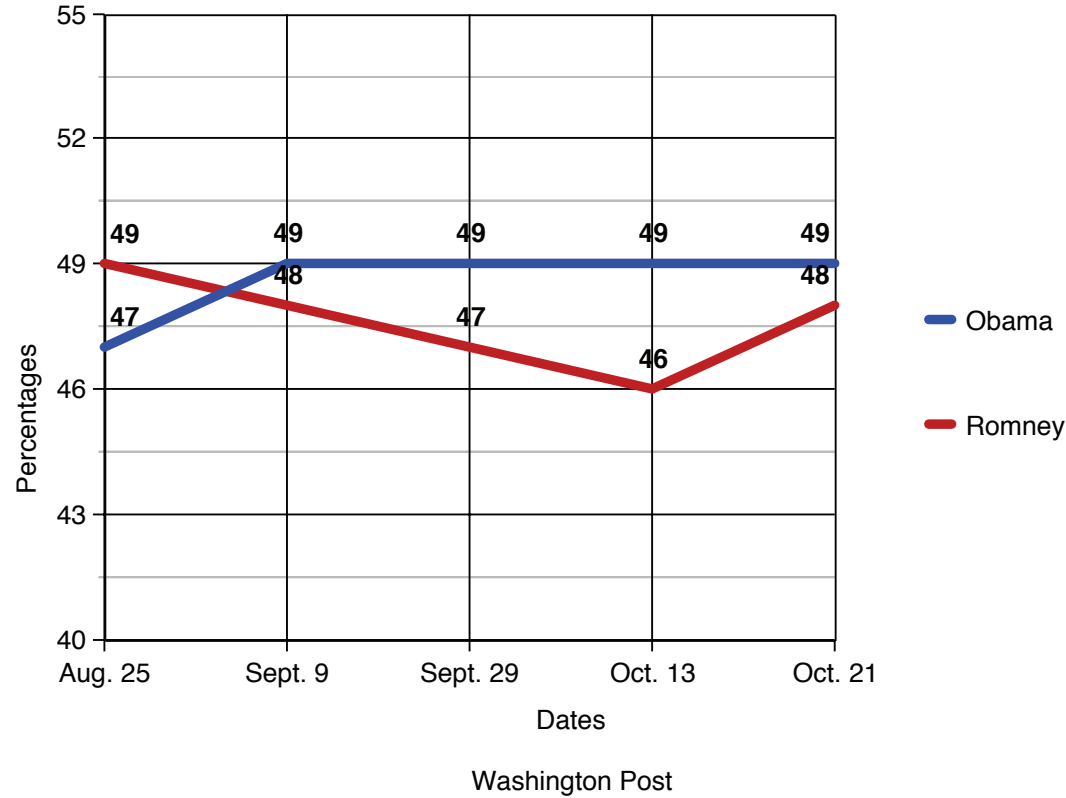
“They don’t matter to me because I know who I’m voting for, but I think they might affect undecided voters.”

Miranda Bartleson, 18



“I think you should be consistent with who you’re voting for and not think about the numbers. I think polls might affect undecided voters.”

Who Citizens Are Voting For Today



Why should I vote? A letter to the editor



By Taylor Baggett
Election Edition Editor-in-Chief

It’s a question that all voters ask themselves before an election, and one that I have heard from my friends a lot over the past few months. Why should I vote?

Some don’t like any of the candidates, some are sick of the political system, and some just feel that they don’t have the time.

This year millions of registered and unregistered U.S. citizens will not exercise their right to vote. In 2008, only 49 percent of college age students voted. To me, that number is sad.

You say you don’t like any of the candidates, but did you know about all the third party options? Did you know that there are more than what’s on the ballot? In Iowa, you can do a write-in vote, and if you don’t like any of the options on the ballot, I strongly encourage you to do a little research and find the candidate that best fits your ideas.

You say you’re tired of the political system. But if you don’t vote, how can you ever hope to change it? Many of my own friends use this excuse. They whine and complain about how the system is broken, but they don’t do what they can to try and fix it.

You say you don’t have the time. Did you know about absentee ballots? These great little things are sent to you before the election, you fill it out on your own time, and send it back in before the polls close on November 6. So if you really are busy that day, you can still vote.

But why is voting so important? To me, it always has been. Growing up, 18 seemed like a magic number so far out of my

grasp, I would never reach it. When I finally did in October of 2011, I woke up to a voter registration form on my desk and a pack of swisher sweets- “gifts” from my stepdad.

I got started right away with that voter registration card. I filled it out and within a few weeks, I was a registered voter. That year I attended the Republican caucuses with my parents. I wanted to know more about this wonderful world of politics that I could now be a part of, and I wanted to start right away.

I’ll never forget that night. It was freezing, and the minute I walked in the door I remember seeing my Spanish teacher. She had always encouraged her students to vote, in part because her Cuban mother had always drilled the importance of the vote into her.

That night I had the opportunity to be my precinct’s secretary. It was my first taste of politics at work, and I loved every minute of it.

For me, it’s hard to understand why someone wouldn’t vote. People in our history

sacrificed their lives to have these rights, and we take them for granted on a daily basis. People in other countries are still fighting to get these rights, and we don’t vote because “I just didn’t have the time.”

So when you’re out and about on November 6, please consider casting a ballot. It takes 15 minutes of your time, and while your one vote may seem insignificant, it does matter. You can make a difference.

As a college student, I realize that not all of my peers will exercise their right to vote. My own roommates aren’t sure if they will vote or not. But I really wish you would.

If you don’t know who to vote for, ask your friends. Ask them why they are voting for whom they are voting for. Learn about the candidates, and use one of the rights given to us in the Constitution. And above all else, remember that there are people out there who die every-day trying to secure the right to vote for people in their country.

Dear editor,

This country is twisted into RICH VS POOR and the middle class is only here for a short time if people like Mitt Romney run the country. People who run businesses need to make money, and that is fine with me. The problem is the huge difference in the pay of people like Donald Trump and his buddy’s in the stock market and the people under them.

They do very little work and reap most of the rewards. The unions became powerful enough in the 1920-1990’s to speak for the workers and demand pay that would put them in the middle income. Thanks to NAFTA that is over, we are little more than minimum wage workers

I come from a town that lost a washing machine factory that was there for over 60 years! I never got to work, but I did benefit from the surrounding businesses that I worked at for over 30 years. That company has relocated to Mexico! Just over the border from Texas. And not one politician stood up and stopped it

This was in the works during the Bush reign and Obama had no control of it.

The bottom line is we need industry and good paying jobs.

1. You can’t give tax credits to companies leaving the country!
2. Give tax credits to local U.S. people when they start a business!
3. If a non U.S. citizen is arrested for any reason they should be transferred to a federal agency and deported to where they came.
4. Obama care is not perfect and it needs tweaked. The people who pay for it need to be the wealthy! Anyone making over 250 thousand a year. Donald Trump will hate this! Cool
5. Repeal NAFTA, Tax imports, promote exports,
6. Keep gas, oil, diesel, propane, natural gas, from being exported! The fuel price would go down where it should be.
7. Limit immigration to only a few per year.

**Ed Crawford,
DMACC student**

Endorsements not effective



By Cainon Leeds
Staff Writer

In the last issue of the Banner, I said that DMACC Boone’s student newspaper would not be endorsing any candidates this election season unless I heard a dissenting view from students. Here’s the reasoning behind my decision: I don’t think an endorsement from the Banner News would matter to the election, and if it would, I don’t want people becoming so dependent on any one news source that an endorsement would mean swaying their otherwise made up mind.

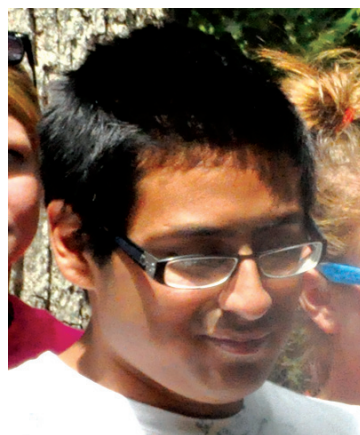
I’m asking readers to look at this issue from my point of view for a moment. What if, hypothetically speaking, a major news organization decided to endorse Barack Obama for president. Would any undecided or Romney supporting viewers decide then and there to vote

for President Obama based on CNN’s endorsement alone? If readers had that sort of mindset, it would give CNN quite a bit of influence in the election.

However, that was just an idea of what could happen. Allow me to present a real life example of a newspaper endorsing a political candidate: the “Des Moines Register” officially endorsed presidential candidate, Mitt Romney, for office on Sunday, October 28. Does that change my vote for president? No. Did it change the minds of the readers of the “Des Moines Register?” Maybe. According to senior political analyst Michael Barone of “The Examiner”, the endorsement of the “Des Moines Register” could sway key voters in Iowa, an important swing state. Of course, we won’t know the true impact of the “Register” until after election day.

Nevertheless, even if the Banner had as much political power as the “Register,” I would be hesitant to use such power for fear of abusing it. As Thomas Jefferson once said, “I hope our wisdom will grow with our power, and teach us that the less we use our power the greater it will be.” In a republic, I believe voters should be informed on where candidates stand, but not told whom to vote for. That is why the Banner chose not to endorse any candidates this election season.

Endorsements help voters



By Jonathan Rangel
Staff Writer

After reading the Banner News’ stance on the media endorsing a candidate, I would have to say that I disagree. While it is not the media’s job to tell citizens what to do, it is the media’s job to inform the public and keep their best interest in mind.

I think the media is in a position in which they are better informed when it comes to the candidates, and should make suggestions to which officials should be elected because of it. If the media avoids leaning to one side of the political spectrum, and instead focuses on what will be best for the nation, I think an endorsement could be useful to those who do not keep up with politics.

As long as the news organization gives clear reasons why a particular candidate would be

better suited for office as opposed to the others, such as bipartisan efforts or a solid economic plan, I think it is a good idea.

The Des Moines Register has endorsed congressional candidates and listed reasons why they chose to endorse who they did; the platform on which each stands on looks more promising for Iowans than their opponents.

Personally, I think the DMACC Banner could have looked at the candidates and made suggestion as to which candidates would represent the students of DMACC the best. Doing so would have not only informed the students as to which candidates would have the students’ best interest in mind, but also helped guide them on Election Day.

Major newspapers endorse candidates

Newspaper Name	Candidate
New York Times	Obama
Los Angeles Times	Obama
San Jose Mercury News	Obama
New York Post	Romney
Washington Post	Obama
Houston Chronicle	Romney
Arizona Republic	Romney
The Dallas Morning News	Romney
Kansas City Star	Obama
The Cincinnati Enquirer	Romney
Boston Herald	Romney
The Des Moines Register	Romney
Omaha World Herald	Romney
St. Louis Post- Dispatch	Obama
Miami Herald	Obama
The Denver Post	Obama
USA Today	Does not endorse candidates

LIKE THE BANNER NEWS
ON FACEBOOK

MCT

District rep, iowa seats up for grabs

By Taylor Baggett
Election Section Editor-in-Chief

With all the focus being put on the Presidential election this fall, many Iowans may have forgotten that President isn't the only person they will be voting for on Nov. 6.

Other offices up for election in Boone County include U.S. House of Representatives, Congress, Iowa House of Representatives and Iowa Senate.

The candidates for **Iowa's 4th congressional district** are Christie Vilsack (DEM), Steve King (REP), and Martin James Monroe (NP).

Christie Vilsack. Vilsack was born and raised in Mount Pleasant Iowa. Vilsack is a 1972 graduate of Kirkland College in Clinton, New York. In 1992 she received her master's degree in journalism from the University of Iowa.

Vilsack taught middle and high school language arts and journalism for 18 years in her hometown. In 1998, she became the First Lady of Iowa- a position she held until 2007.

During this time she promoted literacy and stood for educational and economical development initiatives. In the election, Vilsack's platform is mainly based upon education.

For college students, her plan is to fight for the preservation of Pell Grants and keep them available to community college students who are also working. She supports equal rights for lesbian,



Martin James Monroe, candidate for 4th congressional district. Photo from Monroe's website.

gay, bisexual and transgendered citizens, and has been endorsed by the Planned Parenthood Action Fund.

Steve King. King is the Representative in the now defunct District 5. King was born in Storm Lake and graduated from Denison Community High School. He attended Northwest Missouri State University.

King owned and operated his own construction business (King Construction) in Kirion. In 1996 he was elected to the Iowa State Senate where he served until he was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 2003.

King supports school choice along with local and parental control of educational decisions.

He prides himself on keeping a pro-life record and often takes part in marches against the Roe v Wade decision. King is endorsed by the Susan B. Anthony list.

Martin James Monroe. Monroe is also running for elec-



Christie Vilsack, candidate for 4th congressional district. Photo courtesy of MCT.

tion in the 4th congressional district. Monroe was born in Ida Grove and attended Ida Grove High School. Upon his graduation from high school, Monroe entered the United States Navy.

Upon completion of his military service, Monroe found work as plumber, staying in that field until 1987 when he injured himself on the job and decided to get his college degree.

In 1996, shortly after entering law school Monroe was put on life support after sustaining injury in a collision with a semi. Monroe did go on to earn his degree and move to Pheonix, where he was active in the political scene, earning 43.7 percent of the vote for Arizona Senate as a first-time candidate.

Monroe returned to Iowa in 2008 to pursue his original plan of running for Congress. Today his campaign's main issues include putting America back to work, reducing money spent overseas and the economy. He says he wants to



Steve King, candidate for 4th congressional district. Photo courtesy of MCT.

hear from constituents on issues they believe are important.

In the **Iowa House of Representative's 47th District**, incumbent **Chip Baltimore (REP)** is in a race against Democratic challenger **Donovan Olson** whom he defeated in 2010.

Baltimore was born and raised in Oskaloosa. Then he attended Iowa State University where he received his bachelor's degree in 1988. He went on to attend law school at the University of Minnesota, graduating with honors in 1993.

In 1996, Baltimore came to Boone to join a local law firm where he worked until 2006. From 2006 to 2010, Baltimore worked as in-house counsel, vice president and trust officer at Boone Bank & Trust.

In 2010, Baltimore unseated then incumbent Donovan Olson. Baltimore's campaign focuses on the issues of eliminating special-interest groups from educational decision making.

His challenger is Boone native Donovan Olson. Olson also attended Iowa State University, where he now works. Prior to his first term in the State House, Olson served as the Boone County Supervisor.

Olson believes in providing quality education for all Iowans.

In the **24th District of the Iowa Senate**, Republican incumbent **Jerry Behn** is running against Democrat **Shelly Stotts**.

Behn was born in Ames and graduated from United Community. He worked in agribusiness and is a former Boone County Supervisor. Behn is a member of the Iowa Association of Business and Industry, Iowa Farm Bureau, Iowa Corn Growers and Iowa Soybean Association.

Behn wants to promote job creation, reduce taxes, remove barriers to growth, and "help hard-working Iowans succeed," according to Iowa GOP Web site.

His opponent is Boone teacher Shelly Stotts. Stotts currently works at Boone Community School district where she has taught math for over 25 years.

She received her bachelor's of education degree in 1984 and a master's in 1987. She is a member of the Boone Educators Association, where she once served as president. Stotts was also on the Education Associations negotiation team for six years.

Stott's priorities include restoring educational excellence to Iowa schools, creating new, good-paying jobs, and helping main street businesses grow.

Candidates for Iowa House



Chip Baltimore, candidate for 47th district of Iowa House. Photo from the Iowa House Republicans.



Donovan Olson, candidate for 47th district of Iowa House. Photo from donovanolson.com

Candidates for Iowa Senate



Shelly Stotts, candidate for 24th Iowa Senate District. Photo from Story County Democrats Web site



Jerry Behn, candidate for 24th Iowa Senate District. Photo from the Iowa Legislature Web site

Candidates for County Offices

County Supervisor:

Bill Lusher
Thomas L. Foster
Chet Hollingshead

County Auditor:

Philippe E. Veier

County Sheriff:

Gregg E. Elsberry
Rick D. Lampe

County Attorney:

Adria Kester

Some won't vote on election day

STUDENTS, con't from page 4

I don't want to vote for something that doesn't affect me."

While Widener's reasoning may differ from most students, she still falls into that 49 percent that don't vote.

DMACC student Kodie Butterfield says voting isn't in her plan of the day on November 6th either.

"The way I figure it doesn't matter who's President. We've already dug ourselves such a deep hole that we'll never get out of it."

Top 10 Reasons to Vote

By Douglas Fehlen, columnist, Education Insider

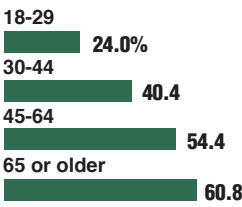
1. It's your right.
2. Your vote matters
3. Shape the social agenda
4. Economic policies will affect your future.
5. Help shape foreign policy
6. Have your say on environmental issues
7. You're part of an important voting block.
8. Politicians won't address student needs without student votes.
9. Demonstrate concern for the next generation
10. Honor past sacrifices

The youth vote

Young voters are showing less enthusiasm for the 2012 presidential election compared to 2008.

Youth have lowest turnout

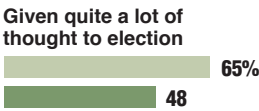
2010 voter turnout by age group



2008 vs. 2012

For 18-29 year-old voters

2008 2012



MCT

Retention vote puts Iowa Supreme Court Justice Wiggins on trial

By Sophia Andersen and Taylor Baggett
Staff Writers

To most college students, the name David Wiggins probably doesn't mean a lot.

But it should. Wiggins is one of the judges who is up for a retention vote on the Iowa ballot this year. Normally a judicial retention vote doesn't gain much attention, but Wiggins is one of the most frequently spoken names in the media across Iowa.

Why? It's simple: On Friday, April 3 of 2009, the seven justices of the Iowa Supreme Court voted unanimously to extend the right to marry to same-sex couples, stating that the language from Iowa Code section 595.2 limiting marriage to a man and a woman violated the Equal Protection Clause in Iowa's Constitution.

This clause, found in Article 1, Section Six, states "All laws of a general nature shall have a uniform operation; the general assembly shall not grant any citizen or class of citizens, privileges or immunities, which upon the same terms shall not equally belong to all citizens."

In short, the court stated, that since the marriage law contradicted the equal protection clause, it was unconstitutional. David Wiggins was one of the seven Supreme Court Justices that made this ruling, and now, as he is up for retention, the case known officially as Varnum v. Brien is at the forefront of many people's minds.

There has been widespread debate over this ruling across Iowa. Varnum v. Brien set a new legal precedent using a state's equal protection clause to validate same-sex marriage.

This has enraged some, producing claims that it violates the traditional definition of marriage, and accusations against the justices of "judicial activism" and "legislating from the bench."

On the flip side, others are claiming that the justices were simply doing their jobs, and applying the law in a fair and just manner in accordance with the Iowa Constitution.

Here is the position of the Iowa Bar Association regarding the retention vote.

According to the Iowa Bar Associations website, "This retention vote is not about whether you agree with the Varnum decision. Rather the question is whether the judge standing is competent, ethical and works hard to resolve the day-to-day legal issues of Iowans. Our Iowa judges and justices are competent, ethical, and work hard day in and day out for all Iowans. We urge you to turn your ballot over and vote YES to retain our Iowa judges and justices."

An entire separate section of their website has been dedicated

to this issue. Other information including coverage of their "Yes Iowa Judges" bus tour can be found at their website, www.iowabar.org.

The Family Leader, an Iowa-based organization led by former-teacher Bob Vander Plaats, has been at the forefront of the fight against retention. With a stated outreach strategy to "Protect and defend family values by influencing public policy, campaigns, and elections", The Family Leader states their mission as "The Family Leader provides a consistent, courageous voice in the churches, in the legislature, in the media, in the courtroom, in the public square... always standing for God's truth".

TFL has been a constant

critic of the Varnum v Brien decision, claiming that the court attempted to redefine marriage, and that homosexuality is a "self-destructive behavior."

Greg Baker, the executive director for the "No Wiggins" ballot initiative, stated "What we are talking about here is we believe the Supreme Court did not have the power to strike down DOMA (1998's Defense of Marriage Act). Our issue is how they handled it. There has never been a law stating gay marriage is legal in Iowa."

Their "No Wiggins" bus tour has attracted many high-profile supporters and guests, including former Pennsylvania Senator and 2012 Republican presidential hopeful Rick Santorum, and Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal.

Baker also mentioned that The Family Leader is working on getting a one man, one woman ballot initiative passed through the Iowa legislature, hopefully in time for the 2014 state elections. More information on

According to the Family Leader run website nowiggins.com, there are several reasons to vote no on the retention of Justice Wiggins.

1) Wiggins made and executed law from the bench. Judges can't do that. Article 12. Section 1 of the Iowa Constitutions says, "The general assembly shall pass ALL laws..."

2) Wiggins is the worst rated Supreme Court Judge in 50-year retention history. He received only a 63% retention recommen-

dation from his own peers.

3) Wiggins broke the Iowa Judicial Code of Conduct. He violated Iowa Code when he did his own research. Iowa Code Chapter 51:2.9 says "A judge shall not investigate facts in a matter independently" but on pg. 54 of the Varnum opinion, they noted the evidence was "confirmed by our own independent research."

4) It's "We the People", not we the courts. Article 1. Section 2 of the Iowa Constitution says, "ALL political power is inherent in the people."

The Family Leader, their views, and upcoming events can be found at www.nowiggins.com, www.thefamilyleader.com, and [http://www.frc.org/human-sex-](http://www.frc.org/human-sexuality)
[uality](http://www.frc.org/human-sex-uality).

Your Vote Determines Your Future! Rep. Chip Baltimore Is Working For You!

Chip Baltimore's Focus On Your Future:

Higher Education

- Increased funding to community colleges
- Helped end universities' tuition set-aside program, which overcharged all students average of 22% to pay for other students' financial aid
- Led the push for **tuition freeze** at Iowa's public universities

Jobs

- Passed economic development programs to create jobs
- Helped implement Skilled Iowa Initiative to match job-seekers' skills with employers' job needs
- Helping small businesses grow by lowering commercial property taxes and reducing government regulation



Education + Jobs = Successful Future

"With the dawning of each new day, push yourself to achieve what you think is not possible. Set your sights beyond what you can see. Dare to take a chance on your future. And then work like crazy to get there. I promise that if you do that, you will be absolutely amazed at the results." Rep. Chip Baltimore, DMACC—Boone Commencement Address, May 2012



VOTE FOR YOUR FUTURE ON NOV. 6th
CHIP BALTIMORE FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Leadership. Experience. Results.

Paid for by Baltimore for Iowa House